(a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, the system of Higher Education in the country has generally been facing the problems of access, equity, relevance, quality and resource crunch;

(b) The X Five Year Plan proposals for the Ministry of Human Resource Development for higher edcucation development, *inter alia,* aim to achieve a profound transformation of higher education in order that it becomes an effective promoter of sustainable human development and at the same time, improves its relevance with closer links with the world of work and achieve quality in its teaching, research and business and community extension functions including life long learning.

Technical Institutions in Bihar

2434. SHRI LAW PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether major technical institutions of Bihar have gone to Jharkhand, after reorganisation of the State;

(b) whether this loss of technical institutions has caused immense damage to students of Bihar, who intend to pursue technical courses; and

(c) whether, in view of a large population and the need of the State to have technically qualified manpower, Government propose to establish an IIT in Bihar; if so, by what means and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Admission into major Technical institutes are made on the basis of merit positions obtained in the common entrance examinations conducted on all India basis. The interest of students of Bihar to that extent are not adversely affected as the students of Bihar are free to compete in these examinations and gain admissions into the major technical Institutes anywhere in the country including Jharkhand.

(c) As opening of new Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) requires huge investments, the Government of India is not considering opening of any new IIT in the country at present. Alternatively, cost effective options

such as increase in intake capacity in existing IITs and upgradation of Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) and other similar premier institutions are being facilitated.

Reservation for SCs/STs in Paid Seats in GGSI University

2435. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent seats are reserved for SCs/ STs respectively, in universities;

(b) if so, whether reservation is being given only against free seats, i.e. only against 50 percent of total seats to them for B.Ed, course in Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and they are being deprived of reservation in paid seats, with the result they get only 7.5 per cent and 3.75 per cent reservation, out of the total seats;

(c) if so, the reasons for deprivation of 7.5 per cent and 3.75 per cent seats in paid seats; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take against such usurping of reservation, constitutionally provided to SCs/STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the information given by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, the reservation is being given against free seats for the B.Ed, course based on the policy decision taken by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in consonance with the Supreme Court judgement in the Unnikrishnan's J.P. Vs. A.R Govt. Case (AIR 1993, Supreme Court).

Admission in engineering and medical science studies

2436. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that non-Government institutions, conducting professional courses generally take huge amount from the